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LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the decision of the Federal Government of the Republic of Yugoslavia to declare a state of war (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Yugoslav Government declares a state of war

Yugoslav Prime Minister Momir Bulatovic announced over Radio-TV Serbia and other television stations in the country on Wednesday night that, in keeping with its constitutional powers, the Federal Government had declared a state of war in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"NATO this evening carried out aggression on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. A sovereign country has been attacked contrary to all the principles and norms of international law.

"For that reason, the Federal Government has decided to turn the declared state of an immediate war threat into a state of war.

"The decision is effective immediately. The Government urges all citizens, members of the Army of Yugoslavia and the police, federal authorities and authorities of the member republics, enterprises and other subjects of defence to exercise their constitutional right and carry out their under law envisaged duties in the defence of the sovereignty and independence of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"The Federal Government, at the same time, urges all citizens calmly, responsibly and conscientiously to perform their duties at work and in that way make the best possible contribution to the defence of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Federal Government has requested of the Security Council of the United Nations to halt NATO aggression and condemn this act of vandalism.

"It is an unprecedented act in international relations, one which runs counter to the Charter of the United Nations itself, and as such threatens peace and stability in the region and on the European continent,"

the Yugoslav Prime Minister said.